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Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

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Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries
Second session
New York, 4-8 April 2011

Draft report

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I. Organizational matters

A. Opening of the session

1. The second substantive session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 4 to 8 April 2011. The session was opened by Jarmo Viinanen (Finland), Chair of the Committee.

2. The Chief of the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, Timur Alasaniya, served as Secretary of the Preparatory Committee.

3. The list of participants is contained in document A/CONF.219/IPC/INF/2/Rev.1.

B. Officers

4. The officers of the Preparatory Committee were as follows:

Chair:

Mr. Jarmo Viinanen (Finland)

Vice-Chairs:

Mr. Gary Francis Quinlan (Australia);
Mr. Abdulkalam Abdul Momen (Bangladesh);
Mr. Federico Alberto Cuello Camilo (Dominican Republic);
Mr. Aman Hassen Bame (Ethiopia);
Mr. Léo Mérorès (Haiti);
Ms. Lilla Makkay, Director, International Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Hungary);
Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India);
Mr. Brian G. Bowler (Malawi);
Mr. Andrej Logar, Ambassador, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Slovenia)

Rapporteur:

Mr. Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou (Benin)

Exofficio:

Turkey (host country of the Conference) and members of the Global Coordinating Bureau of the Group of Least Developed Countries, namely Benin, Nepal, Solomon Islands and the Sudan

II. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

5. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 4 April 2011, the Preparatory Committee adopted its agenda and organization of work as follows (see A/CONF.219/IPC/7):

1. Opening of the session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee.

3. Substantive preparations for the Conference.

4. Approval of the draft outcome document for submission to the Conference.

5. Organizational preparations for the Conference:

   (a) Approval of the draft provisional agenda of the Conference;

   (b) Approval of the draft provisional rules of procedure for the Conference.

6. Other matters.

7. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee.

III. Substantive preparations for the Conference

6. At the same meeting, the Preparatory Committee considered the substantive preparations for the Conference. In that regard, it heard a presentation by the Secretary-General of the Conference, Cheick Sidi Diarra, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. Other presentations were made by Ertuğrul Apakan, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations, speaking in his capacity as the representative of the host country of the Conference; Anda Filip, Permanent Observer of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the United Nations, on the parliamentary track of the Conference and preparatory process; Arjun Karki, Chair of the Civil Society Organization Steering Committee, on the civil society track; Gavin Power, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact Office, on the private sector track; and Gyan Chandra Acharya, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, speaking in his capacity as Chair of the Global Coordinating Bureau of the Group of Least Developed Countries (see paras. ____).

7. For its consideration of agenda item 3, the Committee had before it the following documentation:

(a) Report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on its first session (A/CONF.219/IPC/6);

(b) Summary of outcome documents of pre-Conference events (A/CONF.219/IPC/10);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the ten-year appraisal and review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (A/66/66-E/2011/78);

(d) Background documents:

(i) Summaries and synthesis of national reports on the review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;[1]

(ii) Pre-Conference events organized in preparation for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (issue two);

(iii) *The Least Developed Countries Report 2010* (UNCTAD/LDC/2010).[2]

8. Also at its first plenary meeting, on 4 April 2011, the Preparatory Committee held a general debate on the substantive preparations for the Conference, including its outcome (see paras. ____).

9. In the course of the general debate, the Committee heard 16 statements: 14 by Member States and 2 by intergovernmental organizations. The statements were made by the representatives of Argentina (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Hungary (on behalf of the European Union), Indonesia (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Canada (on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand), Paraguay (on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries), Maldives, China, South Africa, Lesotho, Pakistan, Brazil, Gambia, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Korea (see paras. ____).

10. On behalf of international agencies and civil society, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the Common Fund for Commodities (see paras. ____).

11. From 4 to 8 April, the Committee held five informal meetings, during which it deliberated on the outcome of the Conference. For its deliberations, the Committee had before it a draft outcome document, contained in A/CONF.219/IPC/CRP.1 and A/CONF.219/IPC/CRP.2, that had been the subject of negotiations among stakeholders during the intersessional period.

12. At the 4th informal meeting, on 6 April, the representative of Turkey (on behalf of the host country) briefed the Committee on logistical arrangements for participation in the Conference.

13. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 April, the Preparatory Committee considered agenda items 4 and 5, including both sub-items.

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[1] National reports were submitted by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Zambia (also available from: www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ldc/lang/en/pid/11422).

[2] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *The Least Developed Countries Report 2010: Towards a New International Development Architecture for LDCs* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.II.D.5).

IV. Action by the Preparatory Committee

A. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee

14. At its 2nd plenary meeting, the Preparatory Committee adopted its draft report on its second session (A/CONF.219/IPC/L.3) and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize it in light of the proceedings of the Committee.

B. Decisions of the Preparatory Committee

15. At the same meeting, on 8 April, the Preparatory Committee took the following decisions:

Decision I
Draft outcome document of the Conference

The Preparatory Committee recommended that the Chair continue informal consultations among Member States on the draft outcome document, with a view to finalizing it before the Conference.

Decision II
Draft provisional agenda of the Conference

The Preparatory Committee approved the draft provisional agenda of the Conference (A/CONF.219/IPC/8) and recommended it for adoption by the Conference.

Decision III
Draft rules of procedure for the Conference

The Preparatory Committee approved the draft rules of procedure for the Conference (A/CONF.219/IPC/L.2) and recommended them for adoption by the Conference.

V. Statements

[to be inserted later]

VI. Participants